



THE RARA E-RAG

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NO. 1

Antennas: The more you know, the farther you go.

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Vice President, RARA

My tuner says the SWR is 1.5:1, how come I can never break a pile-up? I can talk to Europe until the cows come home, why can't I reach California? My new vertical only works well when it rains, and then it wipes out my neighbors TV – What gives??? Why does my buddy's dipole work better than my beam? ...Answers to these questions and more at the next RaRa meeting!

With decades of experience as a Radio Broadcast Engineer and even greater tenure as a Ham, Tom Foley Sr. WA2EYF, has a passion for fixing things that is only surpassed by building and improving antennas – fixed and mobile. On Friday September 4th, Tom will go beyond antenna ABC's to explain and illustrate how you can, and why you should, improve your antennas for better performance. Every milliwatt that is not radiated from an inefficient antenna is converted to heat. So do your part to combat global warming and stop heating the air around your antenna: RADIATE RF!

Whether you use a simple to construct antenna like a dipole or a random length wire, or a commercial vertical or beam, come learn how and why the smallest changes can have the most dramatic effect on performance.

See how you can make antenna deficiencies to work to your advantage! Armed with the knowledge from this presentation, you'll be able to make adjustments and enhancements to get your antenna to perform. Break those pile-ups, direct your signal where you want it to go, and transfer as much energy to that receiving station as possible. *Sorry, DXCC is not guaranteed.*

[Meet your friends at RARA. Make new friends at RARA.](#)

RaRa Cruise Night

On August 13th we all met at the "Barnard Hamfest Grounds" for Cruise Night. There were some amazing cars, and motorcycles, from the 1940's through today. The WX was great and the food was abundant! As the sun began to set the Judges made their way through the tough job selecting the "best of Show". We soon learned that no one told the Judges what our theme "HamSexy" meant. So, they awarded the trophy to the nicest looking vehicle with a permanent Ham radio installation! They summarily dismissed HT's bungeed to handlebars, and clipped to sun visors.

Next August plan to attend the RaRa Cruise Night and Tailgate Party!!!



Jon, N2JAC, in his "Tonka" truck.



Jim, N2IXD; Jen, KC2RSZ; and Jeff, N2AWA assessing the finer points of more horsepower.



Larry, W2ZEY receiving his "HamSexy" trophy!



The Prez Sez

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
President, RARA

As I write this article on a rainy Sunday I am trying to remember what summer used to be like since we have not seen it this year. I hope everyone is making the best of the summer we have been dealt this year.

As for the club's summer activities there was the annual picnic in July. From what I hear it was another good picnic. I had an out of town family commitment so I was not able to attend. The other event for this summer is "Cruise Night" and it is being held at the Barnard Carnival Grounds. By the time you read this "Cruise Night" will be in the history books. I am hoping for a dry evening.

The Board of Directors and club officers have been busy through the summer months. We are currently working on a mission statement for the club. RARA does many things from training and testing to public service. The challenge will be to get most of this information into a concise statement. We are also working on a policy and procedure manual which will revolve around a timeline of events the club must do during its yearly cycle. Having this information in one location will help new officers and board members understand what club tasks need to be completed for a particular month.

One item that must be completed on a yearly basis for most of us is the renewing of our membership. There will be an on-line membership renewal option coming this fall. The new web page is being tested and it is looking good. The new site will be linked to a PayPal account. More information will be coming soon.

The 76th RARA Hamfest will be June 5th, 2010. Assignments of the various tasks have started. The Hamfest Chairman, Coordinator, Manager, Director, Czar (we are still working on the title) will be Frank Schramm, WB2PYD. Due to the success of the 75th Hamfest vendors are already looking to reserve their spot for next year. It is easy to become part of the excitement. Just see Frank or myself.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the new year on September 4, 2009. If you are not traveling for the Labor Day weekend please stop in. The coffee will be hot, the soda will be cold, and the donuts will be good!

SILENT KEYS

Carle D. Porter, N2HWP
June 12, 2009

Martin L. Kilinski, WA2HLA
June 24, 2009

Joseph A. Murano, N2EQJ
June 27, 2009

Albert G. DeBlieck, KW2X
August 10, 2009

Ham Radio License Courses

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA License Class Coordinator

This fall RARA will be offering courses for the entry-level Technician, the General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. They will be held on nine consecutive Thursday evenings from September 24th through November 19th. The classes start at 6:30 PM and last about two hours. On Saturday November 21st, RARA will have its regularly scheduled monthly license test session, so you will not have to wait long to get your license or upgrade. For information about location and tuition, and to reserve a place in a course, contact Larry Wallnau at 585-389-1926 or w2zey@rochester.rr.com. If you know someone interested who is in ham radio or in upgrading, please spread the word. Space is limited.

Welcome to the 21st century!

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Webmaster

The momentum of updates and improvements is still strong at RARA. Membership renewals, upgrades, and address changes can now be completed on-line. Your Webmaster, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary have collaborated and implemented an online membership solution. Accessible from the Membership page of our website (<http://rochesterham.org/Membership.htm>) you can renew your membership by entering your name and current mailing address, then selecting your desired level of membership. Once complete you are directed to PayPal where you can make your remittance with your favorite credit card. You do NOT need to have a PayPal account to pay your RaRa dues! Shortly thereafter, the Membership Secretary will send you your Membership Card.

During the course of the year, people move and relocate either permanently or temporarily. To ensure no interruption in the delivery of your paper copy of the RARA RAG, please visit the Membership page and submit an on-line address correction to the Membership Secretary. This address change information will also be listed in the next "Amateur Directory" which is produced by RARA each January.

While the current economy may be deflating your dollar, RaRa is giving you more "Bang for Your Buck". Your Membership buck that is. Renew your RaRa membership today and get **FREE admission to the 2010 Rochester Hamfest**, (raffle ticket not included). That's right, FREE! It's just one more reason to belong to RaRa.

RaRa Hamfest

Saturday June 5, 2010
At the Barnard Carnival Grounds

A bird's eye view of the 2009 RaRa Hamfest:



Public Service 2009

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

September has become the big month for Public Service. We have 5 events scheduled in September and will need a lot of ham support for all of them. The two that will require the most help will be the two bicycle rides. A new bike ride this year is the "AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride" and an older bike ride with a relatively new location is the "Bike MS 2009 Pedal to the Park". Public Service can really use your support in September.

Below is the list of events that are being coordinated by local hams. Go to our website, www.rochesterham.org and click on "Public Service". A complete listing of events and details on each event are there. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the boxes. Highlight the events you like and click on "Submit". I will receive an email with your information and will reply to you acknowledging that I have received it.

Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon – Sun, Sept 13

AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride – Sun, Sept 20

Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta – Sun, Sept 20

Bike MS 2009 Pedal to the Park – Sat, Sept 26

Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm – Sat, Sept 26

America's Walk for Diabetes – Sat, Oct 3

Jamboree on the Air (BSA) – Sat & Sun, Oct 17 & 18

NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol – Fri & Sat, Oct 30 & 31

Awards Thoughts

By Dan & Sue Waterstraat, W2DEW & KC2SUE,
Awards Chairpersons

Welcome back and we hope you all had a good summer. To help get that new antenna up before winter, we have a rather unique item. This is a crossbow antenna line launcher with a mounted fishing reel for putting antenna lines over trees. Range is 75 to 80 feet. Includes four bolts (arrows) and 8 Lb line - Friar Tuck not included. For better range on your HT, we have a 2M/440MHz Jetstream flexible antenna, 15.5" long with BNC connector. Your HT uses a SMA connector you say? We'll throw in a BNC to SMA adapter for Yaesu, etc. with this antenna. And for your reading pleasure we have the ARRL's *Wire Antenna Classics* book. Sue and I look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting.

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: September, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian



The first meeting of the new RaRa season was an interesting chat by Francis "Cuz" Thisse, W2BJI, and his wife Frisky, from Manlius, NY. Cuz spends a lot of time wandering the Caribbean Islands and always has ham radio with him. He will share licensing tips and how to get through some pesky inspections. At this time the meetings were held at 8:00 pm at the Farm and Home Center.

Incoming president Robert Hobday, N2EVG, penned a nice welcoming message and urged all area hams to get involved with RaRa activities. Speaking of activities, the 1989 ARRL Field Day weekend saw an unprecedented amount of activity and area club participation. The Rochester DX Association combined forces with the Rochester VHF Group and ended with a 9294 point 3A effort. Next was K2MP and the Band-dit-Dahs, also 3A from

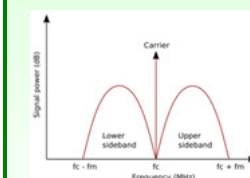
Ontario, NY, earning 5122 points. Their all time rival, Goz's Gang, K2VCZ, turned in 4468 points in the hotly contested 3A category. Elsewhere, on Italy Hill, was the gang from Harris/RF, WB2PSI, also 3A, gathering 3866 points. RaRa's K2JD club station operated 2A, but did not publish a score.

We already introduced Bob Hobday, N2EVG, as the incoming president. His associates for this season were Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP, VP, Pete Secrist WB2SUN as Secretary and Dick Goslee K2VCZ as Treasurer. On the Board were: Dave Bernheisel N2DPF, Michael Eeckhout NO2Z, Keith Freeberg N2BEL, Irv Goodman AF2K, Ed Holdsworth N2EH, Robert O'Connell NF2Z and Bud Young WA2UGE. Ed Gable, K2MP, Chairman of the RaRa Code and Theory classes, introduced the program, then going into it's 32nd year. Ed introduced the instructors with Bob O'Connell, NF2Z, teaching the Novice theory and Joe Phillips W2DHV, teaching the then mandatory 5 WPM code. Ed, K2MP, again takes on the Tech/General theory with Bud Young, WA2UGE, cranking out the 13 WPM. And finally David Schwittek, NW2T, doing the Extra Class theory.

With regret it was reported that Edward (Ned) Junker, KA2DZC, was a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could buy an ICOM IC-3200 dual band radio from Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, for \$400.00. "Commercial Communications" of Lancaster, NY, remained a long term advertiser.



RaRa Hotline
(585) 671-2424
24 Hours a Day



Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

And That's the Way It Was... Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, passed away on July 17 at age 92. He was the mainstay of CBS Evening News for 19 years and brought us Earth-shaking news such as the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the touchdown of Apollo 11 on the moon. He reported on the civil rights movement, the 1967 Mideast Six Day War, Vietnam, and the Watergate scandal. His high standards and no nonsense approach to the news earned him the moniker of "Most Trusted Man in America." After his long career at CBS, he got involved in projects for The Discovery Channel. Besides ham radio, Cronkite was a sailing enthusiast. He will always be remembered for his signature closing each night on CBS Evening News, "And that's the way it is..." *[Various sources]*

Nevada Hams Coordinate Rescue. On the afternoon of July 16, ARRL Elko County (Nevada) Emergency Coordinator Greg Barker, K7CWL, was making his way home on Nevada Highway 278 when a van sped past him. About 60 miles later into his trip, he saw the van slow down and pull over to the side of the road. Barker, a physical therapist, pulled over and asked if he could assist. An elderly couple, their daughter and granddaughter were on the way to the hospital in Elko – another 60 miles – as the grandmother was experiencing what they believed was a series of mini-strokes.

The daughter told Barker that their van kept losing power and wouldn't run. Barker assessed the grandmother and tried to call 911 on his cell phone, but there was no coverage in that area. "I

put out a call on my mobile radio, requesting immediate assistance, using the 146.850 repeater located about 55 miles away, part of a wide-area linked repeater system maintained by the Elko Amateur Radio Club," he told the ARRL. "Kent LeBart, K6IN, club president and a radio technician for the Nevada State Highway Patrol, was monitoring the system and responded immediately, asking how he could be of assistance." Using the crossband repeat mode on his mobile radio, Barker was able to stay with the family at the van. He also used his handheld transceiver to tell LeBart that the grandmother needed to get to the emergency room. "Kent contacted central dispatch and relayed the information I gave him and asked me questions from the dispatch about the patient's situation and condition," he said. "Based on that information, they sent a medivac helicopter from Elko and an ambulance from Carlin." The grandmother was taken by helicopter to the hospital. **[The ARRL Letter]**

Kentucky Town Recruits Hams. When officials of Owensboro Kentucky assessed the response to the aftermath of the January 2009 ice storm and to the wind storm caused by Hurricane Ike the previous year, they realized they needed to solve their communications problems. These storms had disrupted cellular telephone service and knocked down landlines. The folks involved with emergency response teams cited the difficulties with communications as one of the biggest problems. Consequently, emergency officials decided to coordinate efforts with local hams. To insure there would be sufficient volunteers, the local emergency management leaders sponsored a 5-week Technician License course. **[The New York Times, August 1.]** See: <http://tinyurl.com/nz8gz2>

Time to Forsake Twitter and Facebook? In an age when most teens are communicating by text messages, tweeting via Twitter, or gathering with friends on Facebook, there are students in Calabasas California who are taking up ham radio. And so far 75 of them have become licensed! A. C. Stelle Middle School science teacher Karl Beutel, KE6MAO, teaches basic radio theory to 8th graders, and to add an extra incentive he gives the students extra credit if they pass the license exam. One student, Trenton Gluck, K16EGB, acknowledged that he had previously believed cell phones to be a reliable form of communication. He has learned otherwise after getting his ham radio license. **[The Los Angeles Times, July 25.]** See: <http://tinyurl.com/nq55vl>



Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, FZZ1POP
Reporting From the Geek Isles

From Across the Pond. The British Amateur Television Club has a great website with interesting videos [visit <http://www.batc.tv/>]. The "Channels" tabs on the left side of the home page have clips on a variety of subjects, and not just ATV. Recent topics include ARISS contacts and AMSAT activities.

W1AW Adds Digital Modes. Beginning August 17, 2009, W1AW will add two digital modes to its schedule. The station will transmit PSK31 and MFSK16, which will replace its AMTOR and ASCII transmissions, respectively. The frequencies used by W1AW for all its digital transmissions will remain the same. All regular 6 PM and 9 PM Eastern Time digital transmissions will begin with RTTY. PSK31 and MFSK16 will be sent as time allows. The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will be sent using RTTY and PSK31. The W1AW operating schedule, with times and frequencies, can be viewed at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>.

ET Phone Home. The space shuttle Endeavour deployed student-built satellites in late July. They have telemetry downlinks in the 2 meter amateur band. The twin spherical satellites, named Castor and Pollux, were designed by students in cooperation with the Naval Research Laboratory as part of the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment (ANDE). Both satellites transmit 1200-baud packet radio telemetry on 145.825 MHz. Hams are encouraged to submit telemetry reports. Special QSLs and mission patches are planned. Check the ANDE Web site [\[http://tinyurl.com/nzr3a4\]](http://tinyurl.com/nzr3a4) for updates.

Vanity Call Sign Fee to Increase on September 10 On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40.

Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees. These fees are expected to recover a total of \$341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1> .

(Tnx to ARRL Bulletins)

34th ARAST (Elmira) Hamfest

By Tom English, N2YJY

The Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier presents it's 34th annual Hamfest Saturday September 26 at the Chemung County Fairgrounds in Horseheads, NY. This, folks, is turning out to be a GREAT Hamfest. We have lined up a number of vendors to help you make that purchase you've been putting off until later. And as always if you're looking to make a few bucks selling off an item that's just gathering dust, the flea marketing is free with paid admission.

Did I mention the Food? Larry and the gang have been anticipating your coming hungry. We should have plenty of food and as usual, Breakfast will be ready shortly after the doors open at 8:00 am.

There's always plenty of free parking if all you had in mind was coming looking to buy that elusive radio or computer gear. There is always something extra to do at the Elmira Hamfest. VE Testing? Yep, We've got it (9:00 AM start time- Walk-ins welcome). I hear tell there might even be a fox hunt.

I know the gang's been out looking for great prizes for the drawing and there's also the 50-50 drawing and so much more I can't even begin to cover it all. More information can be found at our website: www.arast.org .

Did I tell you how much it costs? Oh yes, it's \$6.00 at the gate (contact any board member and ask for a presale ticket for only \$5.00 before the event date). You can even order your tickets and for a small fee (to cover postage), they will be mailed to you from our website. So save the date-Saturday, September 26, 2009 for the 34th annual Elmira Hamfest at the Chemung County Fairground in Horseheads, NY. Talk-in will be on the N3AQ repeater 147.36(+).

RRRA News

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

Well the summer is almost gone for what summer we had. It is hard to justify the pool sometimes, but it's mandatory to open it, so might as well make the best of it. I wish to thank all those that came out to my camp and held Field Day with me. Although people were scarce, we had fun and made some contacts.

RRRA is going to try something different and outside the box this year. The September meeting we will have an auction. Get together all your goodies from the summer and from the wet Hamfests that you could not attend. This is also our way of competing with eBay by selling Ham equipment locally to the new local hams and others and at the same time supporting the club financially to continue to keep the repeater on the air. So get your items together and join us on September 18 at 8:00PM for our FIRST ANNUAL FIGHT EBAY/CRAIGS LIST AUCTION. We have a confirmation from the dynamic duo of Ed Gable, K2MP and Dick Goslee, KG2I to do the auctioneering. We will still have our regular auction in March 2010.

Just to put everyone in the mood, I am going to try and get Nick Francesco to join us for the October meeting and maybe a special guest along with him. You will not be disappointed if this happens. We will have Nick and the guest tell us all about the changes, pros and cons of Vista and Windows 7. They may even throw in a bit of red hat for us. Let's see how that transpires. We will also be looking for Pumpkin Patrol participants.

In November, we will have the RRRA annual Tune-up Clinic night. No basket cases but bring in your radio for adjustment of tone level, mic level/deviation and frequency checks as well as power output.

December will be our Christmas dinner night out. We have always had good fun and food at Macgregor's on Jefferson Road near RIT. This is a family evening. That's it for now. Keep an eye on our website www.rrra.us. Hope to see you at the meetings.

For Sale

MFJ-1275 Sound card interface \$40
MFJ-564 Iambic paddle key, chrome with cable & plug \$35
RigBlaster Plus sound card interface \$40
TenTec model 1208 6 meter transverter \$25
Signalink SL1 sound card interface \$40
Micronta (Radio Shack) 19-230 vhf/uhf swr bridge \$10
Heathkit AM2 swr bridge (antique, works) \$10
2-Astatic D104 microphones w/base tested and working \$20 ea.

I can email photos of anything to interested parties. Contact Lou Kohnen, K2ANC 585-249-5009

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing



**3rd Saturday of each
Month, September – April**

**Registration – 10:00AM
Testing – 10:15AM**

**Room 3139, Building 9 (Park in Lot J)
Rochester Institute of Technology**

**Contact Ken Hall, W2KRH
to reserve space.**

Calendar of Events

- Sept 4** RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Sept 11** RVHFG Monthly Meeting – Spencerport
Wesleyan Church 2353 Nichols St.,
Spencerport
- Sept 15** RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC,
Rm 200, 1190 Scottsville Rd
- Sept 18** RRRA – 8:00PM, Pittsford Town Hall
Downstairs room
- Sept 19** RARA VE Testing – 10:00AM RIT, Building 9,
Room 3139
- Sept 24** RARA License Class starts – 6:30PM
See our website for up-to-the minute details

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(The Directory won't fit your old one)

**\$3.00 at Meetings
\$8.00 via Priority Mail**

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RARA RAG / Directory Editor Dick Goslee, KG2I
Refreshments Coordinator Tom Austin, KA2GXX
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Andy Flowers, K0SM aflowers@frontiernet.net

Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

Dave Foster, D1161F@aol.com

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED w2ned@frontiernet.net

**October Rag Deadline
September 9, 2009**

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Windsor Chairs handmade in
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RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**All elements needed to
complete a license class.
3rd Saturday of each
month, September – April
Registration – 10:00 a.m.
Testing – 10:15 a.m.**

**Room 3139, Building 9
(park in Lot J)**

**Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, New York 14623
Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD
to reserve space.**

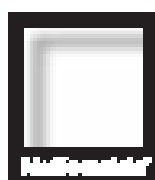
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Robert E. Brown (KBNLV) is a Partner at Boylan Brown and a member of the RARA.



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